National lake conservation plan in Rajasthan

1867. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the lakes covered under the scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan since June, 2001, in Rajasthan;

(b) what has been achieved, so far;

(c) whether any proposals from Rajasthan are pending with his Ministry in above context; and

(d) if so, the status of their disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Under the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP), projects for conservation of Mansagar Lake in Jaipur, Anasagar and Pushkar Lakes in Ajmer, Fateh Sagar and Pichola Lake System in Udaipur have been sanctioned in Rajasthan at a total cost of Rs.214.98 crore.

The main objective envisaged in these projects is prevention of pollution from point sources causing lake degradation and in-situ lake conservation. While the project for conservation of Mansagar Lake in Jaipur has been completed, the other projects in different stages of implementation.

(c) and (d) The project on 'Rejuvenation of Nakki Lake' in Mount Abu has been granted 'in-principle' approval subject to the clearance from National Board for Wild Life by the State Government. No proposal from Rajasthan is pending with the Ministry for consideration under the NLCP scheme.

Protection of tigers

1868. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Tiger Conservation Authority has come under serious attack from a Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by his Ministry for its failure to protect tigers from poachers even in reserved parks like Panna;

(b) how much damage has been caused by poachers to the endangered species in national reserve centuries; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the SIT has painted an alarming picture about the presence of tigers in Panna, once their main habitat and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to save the Big Cat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir.

(b) The details of tiger mortality due to poaching during the current year, as reported by States and information gathered from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has reported that poaching was a major cause for local extinction of tigers in the Panna Tiger Reserve. The said report has been sent to the State Government for taking ecologically/administrative measures, which has the mandate for day-to-day management of the tiger reserve. The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of tiger Mortality due to poaching (including seizures) during the current financial year (State-wise)

Sl.No.	State	2009
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Assam	1
3.	Karnataka	1
4.	Madhya Pradesh	3
5.	Maharashtra	2
6.	Orissa	1
7.	Tamil Nadu	1
8.	Uttarakhand	1
9.	West Bengal	1
10.	Delhi	1
11.	Goa	1
	TOTAL	15*

*As on 30.11.2009

Statement-II

Milestone initiatives (including the recent) taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals

Legal Steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.

2. Enhancement of punishment in cases of offence relating to a tiger reserve or its core area.

Administrative steps

3. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home

guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/ wireless facilities.

4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

6. Declaration of eight new Tiger Reserves and in-principle approval accorded for creation of four new Reserves, namely Sahyadri in Maharashtra, Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh, Ratapani in Madhya Pradesh and Sunabeda in Orissa.

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.

9. An area of 29284.76 sq. km. has been notified by 15 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal). Two tiger States (Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) have taken a decision for notifying the core or critical tiger habitats (2765.04) sq.km.). The State of Madhya Pradesh has not identified/notified the core/critical tiger habitat in its newly constituted tiger reserve (Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary).

Financial Steps

10. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife

Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for Providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

11. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

12. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

13. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITIES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

14. Based on India's strong intervention during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES at Geneva from 6th to 10th July, 2009, the CITES Secretariat has issued a notification to Parties to submit reports relating to compliance of Decisions 14.69 and 14.65 within 90 days with effect from 20.10.2009 (Progress made on restricting captive breeding operations of tigers etc.).

Reintroduction of Tigers

15. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers/tigresses have been done.

16. Special advisories issued for *in-situ* build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF).

17. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *inter alia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of Rs.50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Rs.93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore and

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Central Assistance will be provided to States for creation of STPF in remaining 10 Tiger Reserves in 2009-10. Since then, the guidelines of the STPF have been revised for deploying forest personnel in place of Police, with scope for involving local people like the Van Gujjars.

18. In collaboration with TRAFFIC-INDIA, action has been taken for an online wildlife crime data base, and Generic Guidelines for preparation of reserve specific Security Plan has been evolved.

Recent initiatives.

19. Implementing a tripartite MoU with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.

20. Revised the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) guidelines to involve local people like Van Gujjars and others in field protection.

21. Rapid assessment of tiger reserves done (12 good, 9 satisfactory and 16 poor).

22. Special crack teams sent to tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey.

23. All India meeting of Field Directors convened on 25 and 26 July, 2009 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests for reviewing the status of field protection and related issues in tiger reserves.

24. Chief Ministers of tiger States addressed at the level of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests on urgent issues, *viz.* implementation of the tripartite MoU, creation of the Tiger Conservation Foundation, stepping up protection etc.

25. Chief Ministers of States having tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey addressed for taking special initiatives.

26. Field visits to Bhadra, Corbett, Sariska and Ranthambhore made by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests to review the initiatives and problems relating to tiger conservation.

27. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection.

28. Advisory issued for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the Forthcoming all India tiger estimation.

29. Core Committee involving outside experts constituted for overseeing the forthcoming all India tiger estimation.

30. Report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted for looking into the local extinction of tiger in the Panna Tiger Reserve sent to the State (Madhya Pradesh) for the needful action.

31. Issue of tiger farming and trafficking to tiger body parts discussed at the level of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests with the Chinese Authorities.

32. Action taken for amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act to ensure effective conservation.

33. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.

34. Decision taken to host the World Tiger Summit in October-November, 2010.

Environmental clearance to SEZ developers from Gujarat

1869. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for environmental clearance to SEZ developers from Gujarat and the number of applications cleared, so far; and

(b) by when the remaining applications would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) This Ministry has received 7 applications for approval of Terms of Reference (ToR) and 4 applications for environmental clearance for SEZ projects from Gujarat, out of which, ToRs were issued to all the 7 projects and environmental clearances were granted to 2 projects, 1 project was closed due to non-submission of information and 1 project is awaiting clarifications pertaining to Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ).

(b) The Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of September 2006 stipulates a time limit of 60 days for conveying the Terms of Reference to the applicant on receipt of application with all necessary documents. Further, a time limit of 105 days, after of the receipt of the complete application with all necessary documents, has been provided for environmental appraisal of the projects and conveying the decision.

Global warming

1870. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment on the impact of global warming in the country as being forecasted by various experts and world bodies including the United Nations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's response in this regard;

(c) the strategy being finalized for combating the ill effects of the climate change; and

(d) the reasons for delay in responding to the challenge?